

BRECON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1943.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1943. This report is prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 10/44 (Wales) and is again therefore very restricted. The opportunity is taken, however, of dealing briefly with subjects in which the public has shown special interest during the year.

Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified to me during the year. These notifications refer to civilian patients only.

Diphtheria.....1 case.  
Scarlet Fever.....12 cases.  
Cerebro-spinal Fever...2 cases.  
Infantile Paralysis..1 case.  
Erysipelas.....1 case.  
Influenzal Pneumonia.2 cases.

Diphtheria. This case occurred in January in a non-immunised child.

Scarlet Fever. These cases were scattered throughout the year and were all of a mild type.

Influenzal Pneumonia. These cases occurred in December and formed part of a fairly severe outbreak of influenza which affected the whole country. This outbreak was responsible for three deaths in the Borough including these two notified cases of influenzal pneumonia.

Cases of infectious disease were removed, when necessary, to Llanthyr Isolation Hospital and the total number removed is shown below;

Scarlet Fever....10 cases.  
Cerebro-spinal Fever.2 cases.  
Diphtheria.....1 case.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year monthly clinics were held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria. In addition advertisements were placed in the press, parents were circularised and advisory visits were made by the County Council Health Visitor and also by the members of the Borough Council. The response has been satisfactory and at the end of the year the position as regards North Breconshire is shown by the following;

Number of children in the district between 1 and 5 years who have been immunised.....1082....81.6%.  
Number of children in the district between 5 and 15 years who have been immunised.....3462....87.6%.

Venereal Disease.

The Breconshire County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases.

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Tuberculosis.

The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in the Borough.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year...	23.
Number of cases notified during the year.....	12.
Number of deaths during the year.....	1.
Number of cases on register at the end of the year.....	34.

Number of notifications in recent years.....	1939.....9.
	1940.....10.
	1941.....14.
	1942.....7.
	1943.....12.

Water Supplies.

At the request of the Welsh Board of Health some reference is now made to the water supply to the Borough.

The town is supplied by means of surface water taken from a stream on the Brecon Beacons and conducted to a storage reservoir. The water is treated by means of slow sand filtration and finally chlorination. I had reason to believe during the year that the filter beds were not as efficient as they might be.

The quantity is sufficient for the needs of the town except in periods of exceptional drought when some difficulty is experienced in giving an adequate supply to the higher reaches of the town. The quality normally is excellent but during the year under review some unsatisfactory bacteriological results were obtained.

The supply is constant and all the houses supplied from the waterworks have a tapped supply, there being no standpipes. There are fourteen houses and farms in the outlying parts of the Borough which have their own private supply. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.